

last year. While that of course sounds like good news, the story is more complicated. We have heard of at least three child deaths related to abuse or neglect. Some abuse is going unreported. And there are clear gaps in data between the agencies and in the reporting. So I am urging my state to elevate the standards of protective services even higher.

Child Protection Services needs to coordinate with other agencies. They need to share data so we can have a clear picture of the full scope of the problem. Everyone needs to work together to make sure that all Montana kids are safe.

Our Nation must tackle this issue head on. We must embrace our responsibility to protect our children. We need to provide them with safe, nurturing environments and the support they need to thrive and succeed in our society.

We need to make sure that kids have access to physical and mental health services, so they can grow into happy, productive adults. We need to help children with mental illnesses by reducing the stigma surrounding mental health services and ensuring that these young people know there is a strong support network backing them up.

We should look at programs like home visits, which currently provide professional assistance, right at home, for more than 50,000 families across our Nation, and see how they can be improved to do an even better job supporting vulnerable families.

We are blessed to live in the richest, most powerful country in the world. We have to use every resource at our disposal to strengthen our laws to ensure that all children are given a chance to succeed in life.

This bipartisan legislation we are introducing today is a step in the right direction to protect our kids.

I commend my colleagues Senators KERRY and COLLINS for their years of tireless work, fighting for the rights of our children. The House of Representatives has already acted on this legislation. Let us now join together and create a life free of violence and fear for our most vulnerable citizens.

Let us pass the Protect Our Kids Act.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 3708. A bill to encourage reporting of child abuse; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3708

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stop Abuse For Every Child Act of 2012" or the "SAFE Child Act".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 20 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3013 the following:

"§ 3014. Additional special assessment

"(a) In addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess on any person other than an individual convicted of an offense against the United States an amount equal to 3 times the amount that would be assessed on a person under section 3013 for the same offense.

"(b) There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the 'Surcharge Fund' (referred to in this section as the 'Fund'), to be administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"(c) Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, or any other law regarding the crediting of money received for the Government, there shall be deposited in the Fund an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

"(d) From amounts in the Fund, and without further appropriation, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for fiscal year 2013, and every 3 fiscal years thereafter, award a competitive grant with a grant period of 3 years and in the amount of \$1,000,000 for each year to a private nonprofit organization that has a successful multi-year record of operating a national child abuse hotline, which shall be used—

"(1) to operate such a hotline, which shall—

"(A) operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with individuals answering calls;

"(B) be staffed by individuals that are trained to handle crisis counseling and child abuse and neglect inquiries, including individuals with a background or advanced degrees in counseling, mental health, social work, or other related fields;

"(C) have the ability to provide assistance to callers in multiple languages;

"(D) have chat or text message capability to increase access and participation for children and youth who may not be as likely to call on a telephone; and

"(E) provide—

"(i) assistance in reporting incidences of child abuse and neglect;

"(ii) crisis counseling;

"(iii) referrals to relevant resources in the caller's community; and

"(iv) education and resources on the signs and symptoms of abuse, risk factors, parenting concerns, and adult survivor issues; and

"(2) to encourage reporting of child abuse and conduct public education on child abuse.

"(e)(1) Effective on the day after the date on which an award is made under subsection (d), or, for a fiscal year in which no award is made under subsection (d), effective on September 30 of that fiscal year, all unobligated balances in the Fund shall be transferred to the Crime Victims Fund established under section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

"(2) Amounts transferred under paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall be available for any authorized purpose of the Crime Victims Fund; and

"(B) shall remain available until expended.

"(f) The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

"(g) The obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the SAFE Child Act shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 20 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

"3014. Additional special assessment."

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3425. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1, making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3426. Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3395 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3427. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3404 submitted by Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3428. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3404 submitted by Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3429. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3404 submitted by Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3430. Mr. LIEBERMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3431. Mr. LIEBERMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3432. Mr. REID (for Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Ms. LANDRIEU)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4212, to prevent the introduction into commerce of unsafe drywall, to ensure the manufacturer of drywall is readily identifiable, to ensure that problematic drywall removed from homes is not reused, and for other purposes.

SA 3433. Mr. REID (for Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BLUNT)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6364, to establish a commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, to provide for the designation of memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes.

SA 3434. Mr. REID (for Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3709, to require a Government Accountability Office examination of transactions between large financial institutions and the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3425. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1, making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and